

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a head suspension for a rigid disk drive having a load beam with a mounting region, a rigid region, and a spring region located between the mounting region and rigid region, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of tabs ~~in~~ integrally formed from the material comprising the mounting region and adjacent to an aperture in the mounting region; and

bending at least one of the tabs at an angle with respect to the mounting region to generate an integral boss tower.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tabs and the mounting region comprise different portions of the same piece of material.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising bending at least one of the tabs.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 comprising forming the tabs with a first portion directed away from the mounting region.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 comprising forming the tabs with a second portion directed towards the mounting region.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a head suspension for a rigid disk drive having a load beam with a mounting region, a rigid region, and a spring region located between the mounting region and rigid region, comprising the steps of:

forming a region around a perimeter of an aperture in the mounting region into a shape having at least one projecting portion positioned at an angle with respect to the mounting region; and

attaching a boss tower to the projecting portion.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 comprising attaching the boss tower to the projecting portion using an adhesive.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 comprising attaching the boss tower to the projecting portion using welding.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 comprising forming a fastening mechanism adapted to attached the boss tower to the projecting portion.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 comprising injection molding the boss tower in place over the projecting portion.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the projecting portion and the mounting region comprise different portions of the same piece of material.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the projecting portion is continuous.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein the projecting portion is discontinuous.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 comprising using the projecting portion to position and align the boss tower relative to the aperture.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a head suspension for a rigid disk drive having a load beam with a mounting region, a rigid region, and a spring region located between the mounting region and rigid region, comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of holes in the mounting region around an aperture in the mounting region; and

injection molding the boss tower to the mounting region to form a bond between

the boss tower and the mounting region wherein at least a portion of a material from which the boss tower is molded flows through the holes.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a head suspension for a rigid disk drive having a load beam with a mounting region, a rigid region, and a spring region located between the mounting region and rigid region, comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of holes in the mounting region around an aperture in the mounting region; and

mechanically interlocking the boss tower with the holes.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of mechanically interlocking comprises snap-fitting the boss tower with the holes.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a head suspension for a rigid disk drive having a load beam with a mounting region, a rigid region, and a spring region located between the mounting region and rigid region, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of tabs ~~in~~integrally formed from the material comprising the mounting region, the tabs being located around an aperture in the mounting region;

positioning the tabs at an angle with respect to the mounting region; and

injection molding the boss tower to the mounting region using a material which flows around the tabs to strengthen a bond formed between the boss tower and the mounting region.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of forming a multi-piece head suspension for a rigid disk drive, comprising the steps of:

providing a first layer having a mounting region with an integral boss tower attached to a rigid region by at least one positioning tab;

attaching a second layer having a spring region to an interface between the mounting region and the rigid region;

attaching a flexure to the rigid region; and

removing the positioning tab.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 19 wherein the rigid region comprises a stiffener.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 19 wherein the flexure comprises a portion of the second layer.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 19 wherein the flexure comprises a portion of a third layer.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a head suspension for a rigid disk drive having a load beam with a mounting region, a rigid region, and a spring region located between the mounting region and rigid region, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of mounting features ~~in~~ integrally formed from the material comprising the mounting region, the mounting features being adjacent to an aperture in the mounting region; and

forming a boss tower on the mounting region comprising the mounting features.